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M-19 guns traced to Nicaragua Marxists

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President Reagan yesterday blamed Nicaragua's Marxist regime for supplying the rifles that were used in the bloody battle last November in Colombia that killed more than 100 people, including 11 Supreme Court justices.

"It should surprise no one that the rifles used to take over a court building and murder judges in a democratic nation can be traced to a country controlled by those who don't believe in freedom, human rights or democracy," Mr. Reagan said in remarks welcoming President Leon Febres Cordero of Ecuador to the White House.

"Democracies can no longer afford to ignore this unfortunate fact of life," Mr. Reagan said.

The president did not mention Nicaragua by name, but a senior administration official later confirmed that the president was referring to that country's ruling Sandinista leaders.

The rifles used by the Marxist M-19 terrorists in the Colombian Supreme Court Building have been traced by U.S. intelligence sources to the Sandinistas, the official said.

He said the weapons were acquired by the Sandinistas from the army of the late Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza.

The official confirmed that the identification was made from the serial numbers of the weapons captured by the Colombian army and police.

He refused to discuss the source of the information that linked the M-19 with the Sandinistas because he said it was acquired from intelligence sources.

Asked if the Sandinistas' claim that they never saw the rifles used in the Colombian terrorist assault was false, the official simply said, "Yes."

More than 100 people were killed in the Bogota battle, including 11 Supreme Court judges, after the M-19 terrorists seized the court building and then were wiped out in an all-out attack by Colombian security forces.